Revised Mine Emergency Evacuation and Firefighting Plan

Mine operators should consider the following issues and topics when developing new mine emergency evacuation and firefighting programs of instruction under 75.1502. As applicable to the particular mine, all of the following procedures should be expanded to cover fires, explosions, and gas or water inundations. Mine operators developing these programs and MSHA personnel approving individual mine emergency and evacuation and firefighting programs of instruction should consider this list as suggestions and guidance for topics to be covered in the plan.

The list may be expanded as necessary to cover the different circumstances at a particular mine.

1. Identify and list the name(s) and/or title(s) of RESPONSIBLE PERSON(s) (RP) who will take charge on all shifts during mine emergencies involving fires, explosions, or inundations. If there is more than one RP on a shift, who is designated as the primary decision maker?

2. Describe how the underground miners will be notified of any changes in the responsible person.

3. What type and where are communications systems located underground that are available to rapidly notify personnel of an emergency? What procedures will be followed if these communications systems fail during an emergency?

4. Describe how underground miners, and their work locations and anticipated movements that change their work locations during the shift, will be identified and tracked for their workshifts.

5. What are the locations of underground and surface assembly points for emergency evacuations? What procedures will be followed to assemble and account for mine personnel during an evacuation?

6. Are there any other personnel responsible to facilitate the evacuation from underground? Identify and list their names and/or titles. Describe how other underground personnel will know who these people are.

7. What equipment and travel routes will be used to evacuate underground personnel?

8. Describe how up-to-date ventilation and escape route maps and/or schematics will be provided for use by the responsible person.

9. If applicable, define the atmospheric monitoring system (AMS) parameters (alert and alarm levels) and actions that will be taken in response to these incidents, as well as the alarms initiated due to communication errors or malfunctions.

10. Identify all persons who are trained and qualified to respond to these emergencies (identify their particular training and qualifications, i.e. gas detection, fire fighting, mine rescue, etc.). Describe how this information will be made available to the responsible person.

11. Identify and list the location and type of equipment available for emergency response. Describe how this information will be provided to the responsible person.

12. Describe how the trained and qualified personnel, emergency equipment and/or rescue apparatus will be rapidly assembled and transported to the scene of the mine emergency?

13. What are the different types of emergencies that the mine could encounter? If there is the potential for a water inundation, does the RP know where the high ground is so that he can direct miners during an evacuation? Do miner's understand the dips and orientation of the mine and where water would accumulate?

14. How will underground water supplies be directed in the event of a fire or explosion?

15. What procedures will be taken to de-energize electrical power?

16. What type of gas detection equipment is being used?

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